



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

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FEB 04 1994

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

R-19J

Honorable Carol Moseley-Braun
United States Senator
230 South Dearborn Street
Suite 3996
Chicago, Il. 60604-1690

Dear Senator Moseley-Braun:

Thank you for your letter dated January 18, 1994 concerning the Dead Creek area in Cahokia, Il.

A copy of this letter from the residents in the Cahokia area was received by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) in November, 1993. IEPA, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), responded to the request from Senator Paul Simon's office on December 9, 1993. I have attached a copy of that letter to this response for your information.

Staff members from USEPA and IEPA went out to the Dead Creek area on November 2, 1993, to inspect the elevated creek levels and evaluated any potential human health risk. Based on this visit and the results of periodic water samples of Dead Creek by IEPA, there is no indication of human health risk resulting from the recent flooding in the Cahokia area. In regard to the concern over the flooding of home basements, the flooding is most likely due to the elevated groundwater table. Pumping out water from Dead Creek would probably have little if any effect on the basement flooding problem until the water table receded.

Sampling results do show hazardous waste contamination in the sediments of the bed of Dead Creek, but this would produce a human health threat if the creek were dry and people came in direct contact with the soils by stepping into the creek bed or if a strong wind carried contaminated soil particles through the air. The contaminants of concern in the sediments are Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) which attach tightly to soil particles and do not move easily with ground or surface water. Pumping out portions of Dead Creek may in fact increase the potential for a human health threat for the residents of Cahokia.

My staff is continuing to work with IEPA to finalize the Hazardous Rankings Score in order to propose the Sauget Dead Creek areas for the Superfund National Priorities List. At the same time, we are working together to identify priority activities, based on site risks, that we can begin planning for at this site.

Please refer to the attached response from IEPA for additional information regarding the questions and concerns outlined in the letter from Diane and Rick McDonnell. If additional information is needed or other concerns arise, feel free to contact my office in the future.

Sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
DAVID A. ULLRICH

Valdas V. Adamkus
Regional Administrator

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